

238-244

1512 Dates J-BK

Gordianus III was sole  
emperor

A new stage is reached when the  
rumblings along the border erupt  
into a massive Gothic onslaught.  
The attackers plundered and pillaged HISTRO-  
HISTRIA south of the mouth of the Danube  
and then withdrew again

From 238

The Gothic assaults devastated the eastern provinces of the Roman empire for more than 4 years.

The Gothic immigrants became (soth) the very moment the Mediterranean world considered them Scythians.

The Cospian Allies proclaimed themselves superior to the Goths. In return for withdrawal of the army and release of prisoners, the imperial government was ready to grant, if not renew, annual payments to the Goths.

from 238

Gothic- Scythians

Repeated invasions of Gothic groups at the  
lower Danube.

Shah Shapur I renewed the Persian - Roman war. The Roman emperor Gordian III took the field in 242 - 244 but was lynched in a military mutiny instigated by his prefect Philip, who upon seizing the throne, purchased peace from Shapur for 10,000 pounds of gold.

238AD

GORDIANUS I & GORDIANUS II

succeeded MAXIMINUS

PUPIENUS & BALBINUS also

Early Jan 238

Gordian I

Accession to the throne  
he was 80 yrs old

He married FABIA ORESTILLA  
two sons; Marcus Antonius Gordianus  
Indom: name unknown  
daughter Maecia Faustina

He was a wealthy man, fond of literature &  
wrote an account in verse of the lives of  
Antoninus Pius & Marcus Aurelius in

Early Jan 238

Indus II

Accession to the throne

238

Gordian I was emperor

Also Gordian II was emperor

Also Pupienus and Balbinus were emperors

The Colosseum damaged by lightning in 217, was slowly put to rights (though not wholly restored until 238)

238-244

Gordian II was emperor

Fat Jan 238

Barca II was killed in the  
defense of Carthage.

Alexander Severus was deified by  
the senate:

Lat Jan 238

Gordian I committed suicide  
at Carthage after his son Gordian II  
was killed

He was deified by the saints  
under Puprenus and Balbinus.

late Jan 238

The end of the Gordian rebellion placed the senate at Rome in great jeopardy. Buried up by hopes of victory, they had made their support for the Gordians all too clear, and could no mercy from Maximinus when he and his army reached Rome. The senators decided to stake all on a desperate gamble. Meeting together in the Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus on the Capitol, they determined to defy Maximinus and elect two of their

own members as joint emperors, in an arrangement reminiscent of the consuls under the old republic.

The choice fell upon a distinguished pair of ex-consuls, DECIVS CAELIUS CALVINUS BALBINVS and MARCVS CLODIUS PUPIENVS MAXIMVS, both in their 70s. They also appointed a Council of Twenty, the VIGINTIVIRI, to assist the new emperors in the defence of Italy.

The first obstacle to the senatorial scheme came from the city populace. A crowd gathered while Pupienus and Balbinus were being elected

Lat Jan 238

The emperors had no option but to compromise with the crowd. Accordingly they sent for the 13-yr old grandson of the elder Gordian (his daughter's son) and appointed him Caesar.

Jan 238

News of Gordian I & Gordian II being emperors reached Maximinus at Sirmium near Belgrade 10 days later. He at once assembled his army and advanced on Rome.

The governor Capellianus in province next harbored a long-standing grudge against the Gordians. He also controlled the Third Legion 'Augusta'. He took those

& marched on Carthage and easily overwhelmed  
the local militia which sought to defend  
the city Gordian II, the younger Gordian was  
killed in the fighting and when his father  
Gordian I heard the news he withdrew into a  
private room, took off his belt and hanged  
himself. It was last Jan.; their joint  
reign had lasted only 20 days.

<sup>Early</sup>  
Feb 238

Pupariæ accessim to the  
throne with Balbeniæ